

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 (ISO) W

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R 160810Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5727

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINSTER ON SOVIET AND LEFTIST ACTIVITES IN REGION

1. DURING JUNE 15 MEETING FOREIGN MINISTER ASNAG TOLD ME THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN QUITE ACTIVE OVER LAST FEW WEEKS WITH "INDUCEMENTS" TO GET YEMENIS TO RE-ESTABLISH CLOSER TIES WITH SOVIET UNION. ASNAG STATED THAT AMONG OTHER THINGS THEY HAVE EXPRESSED READINESS TO CONSIDER ALL AND ANY YEMENI REQUESTS FOR ARMS. EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT, SOVIETS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET HAMDI TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO SOVIET UNION. ASNAG ASSERTED THAT HAMDI, HOWEVER, WITH HIS "TRADITIONAL DISLIKE" OF THE SOVIETS HAS NO INTENTION OF ACCEPTING EITHER THESE INDUCEMENTS OR THIS INVITATION.

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2. ASNAG CONTINUED THAT IT HAS BECOME QUITE CLEAR

SOMALIA HAS BECOME A SOVIET SATELLITE IN EVERYTHING BUT NAME. ASNAG SAID THAT HE WILL TRY TO SPEAK TO SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER ARTEH AT NEXT ARAB SUMMIT (WHENEVER IT IS HELD) BUT HE IS NOT TOO OPTIMISTIC OF RESULTS EVEN THOUGH ARTEH IS A NON-COMMUNIST. ASNAG NOTED THAT IN SOMALIA PRO-MARXIST MILITARY MEN HAVE TAKEN OVER WHILE CIVILIANS LIKE ARTEH ARE POWERLESS.

3. FINALLY, ASNAG INFORMED ME THAT A FEW DAYS AGO ONE OF THE AFAR MEMBERS OF THE DJIBOUTI CABINET HAD BEEN SECRETLY IN SANA TRYING TO ENLIST YEMENI SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN DJIBOUTI TO OFFSET ANY POSSIBILITY OF A SOMALI TAKE-OVER. ASNAG INDICATED THAT HE HAS WRITTEN A LETTER TO PRINCE SULTAN WARNING HIM TO BE CAREFUL OF SOMALI PROMISES TO TURN THE RED SEA INTO AN "ARABIAN LAKE" IF SAUDIS SUPPORT THE SOMALIS IN BRINGING ABOUT THE OUSTER OF THE FRENCH FROM DJIBOUTI. ASNAG STRESSED THAT IT IS QUITE CLEAR THE SOMALIS WISH TO REMOVE THE FRENCH IN ORDER TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE SOVIETS AND THE SAUDIS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN IN.

SCOTES

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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